II.   Amendments to the Specification

Please accept amendments to the specification, page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 18, as follows:

The process of Fig. 2B is as follows: starting from block 220, at block 222 the question is asked whether a client has specifically released a resource. If not, then at block 224, it is determined whether the client remains attached to the network. This determination can be made through any of a number of conventional approaches, such as "pinging" the client or by determining a heartbeat of the client using the Heartbeat Patent referenced above. If the client is present, then control passes to an optional set of time determinations which serve to limit the time that a resource can be held/used -- either with activity or without activity. Associated with the resource (e.g., an application, database or memory) and/or the client are allowable time intervals. For example, a client may use a first application for 30 minutes but will be considered inactive if no activity occurs within a 15 minute time period. Thus, at block 226 the amount of time a resource has been used will be compared with an allowable time for such use (if any has been set) by comparing the present time with the beginning time which was stored in column 308 of Fig. 3A to determine the amount of time the resource has been in use. Note that at block 226, the amount of time that the resource is being held/used is determined without considering whether a transaction(s) is performed using the resource (i.e., with activity) or not (i.e., without activity) in the period of holding. In addition, whether the resource is being used for a single transaction or multiple transactions also does not affect the determination of the amount of use/holding time, the preset allowable time for the use, or the comparison. To this extent, at

block 226 the amount of time a resource has been used may equal to the accumulation of the periods of all transactions (activities) and the period(s) of non-activity between the beginning time and the present time. If the time that the resource has been used does not exceed the limit, then the amount of inactive time is compared at block 228. That is, the period since the last use (in column 310 of Fig. 3) to the present is compared with a threshold (if set) to determine whether the resource has been held without activity longer than a preset period of time. If the client released the resource (at block 222), the client is not attached (at block 224), the time of use (block 226) or the time of inactivity (block 228) exceed the set limits, then the resource is released at block 230 with the entry in the table of resources being used (Fig. 3A) erased at block 232 and the resource marked as available in the listing of Fig. 3B at block 234. Control then returns to the start for the next resource action.